

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM

## VOLUME 157 SCIENTIFIC RESULTS GRAN CANARIA AND MADEIRA ABYSSAL PLAIN

Covering Leg 157 of the cruises of the Drilling Vessel *JOIDES Resolution*,  
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24 July-23 September 1994

Philip P.E. Weaver, Hans-Ulrich Schmincke, John V. Firth,  
Jesus Baraza, James F. Bristow, Charlotte Brunner, Steven Carey, Bernard Coakley,  
Michael Fuller, Thomas Funck, Martine Gérard, Patrick Goldstrand, Bernhart Herr, Julie Hood,  
Richard Howe, Ian Jarvis, Susana Lebreiro, Sten Lindblom, Holger Lykke-Andersen,  
Rosanna Maniscalco, Guy Rothwell, JoAnne Sblendorio-Levy, Jean-Luc Schneider, Mari Sumita,  
Hidetsugu Taniguchi, Penny Tu, Paul Wallace  
*Shipboard Scientists*

John V. Firth  
*Shipboard Staff Scientist*

Editorial Review Board:  
Hans-Ulrich Schmincke, Philip P.E. Weaver, John V. Firth, Wendell Duffield

Prepared by the  
OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Georgia L. Fox  
*Volume Editor*

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and  
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# Foreword

By the National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation is proud to play a leading role in partnership with the U.S. oceanographic community in the operation and management of the Ocean Drilling Program (ODP). We are equally proud of the cooperation and commitment of our international partners, who contribute both financial and intellectual resources required to maintain the high quality of this unique program. The Ocean Drilling Program, like its predecessor, the Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP), is a model for the organization and planning of research to address global scientific problems that are of high priority internationally and of long-term interest to the scientific community and general public.

Major scientific themes guiding the development of specific drilling cruises range from determining the causes and effects of oceanic and climatic variability to understanding the circulation of fluids in the ocean crust and the resultant formation of mineral deposits. Although such studies are at the forefront of basic scientific inquiry into the processes that control and modify the global environment, they are equally important in providing the background for assessing man's impact on the global environment or for projecting resource availability for future generations.

The transition from the DSDP to the ODP was marked by a number of changes. The 471-foot *JOIDES Resolution*, which replaced the *Glomar Challenger*, has allowed larger scientific parties and the participation of more graduate students, a larger laboratory and technical capability, and operations in more hostile ocean regions. The *JOIDES Resolution* has drilled in all of the world's oceans, from the marginal ice regions of the Arctic to within sight of the Antarctic continent. Over 1,200 scientists and students from 26 nations have participated on project cruises. Cores recovered from the cruises and stored in ODP repositories in the United States and Europe have provided samples to an additional 1,000 scientists for longer term post-cruise research investigations. The downhole geochemical and geophysical logging program, unsurpassed in either academia or industry, is providing remarkable new data with which to study the Earth.

In 1994, NSF and our international partners renewed our commitment to the program for its final phase. Of the 20 countries that supported ODP initially, only one, Russia, has been unable to continue for financial reasons. As the reputation and scientific impact of the program continue to grow internationally, we hope to add additional members and new scientific constituencies. This global scientific participation continues to assure the program's scientific excellence by focusing and integrating the combined scientific knowledge and capabilities of its member nations.

We wish the program smooth sailing and good drilling!

Neal Lane  
Director  
National Science Foundation  
Arlington, Virginia

# Foreword

By Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc.

This volume presents scientific and engineering results from the Ocean Drilling Program (ODP). The papers presented here address the scientific and technical goals of the program, which include providing a global description of geological and geophysical structures including passive and active margins and sediment history, and studying in detail areas of major geophysical activity such as mid-ocean ridges and the associated hydrothermal circulations.

The Ocean Drilling Program, an international activity, operates a specially equipped deep-sea drilling ship, the *JOIDES Resolution* (Sedco/BP 471), which contains state-of-the-art laboratories, equipment, and computers. The ship is 471 feet (144 meters) long, is 70 feet (21 meters) wide, and has a displacement of 18,600 short tons. Her derrick towers 211 feet (64 meters) above the waterline, and a computer-controlled dynamic-positioning system stabilizes the ship over a specific location while drilling in water depths up to 27,000 feet (8230 meters). The drilling system collects cores from beneath the seafloor with a derrick and drawworks that can handle 30,000 feet (9144 meters) of drill pipe. More than 12,000 square feet (1115 square meters) of space distributed throughout the ship is devoted to scientific laboratories and equipment. The ship sails with a scientific and technical crew of 51 and a ship's crew (including the drill crew) of 62. The size and ice-strengthening of the ship allow drilling in high seas and ice-infested areas as well as permit a large group of multidisciplinary scientists to interact as part of the scientific party.

Logging, or measurements in the drilled holes, is an important part of the program. ODP provides a full suite of geochemical and geophysical measurements for every hole deeper than 1300 feet (400 meters). For each such hole, there are lowerings of basic oil-industry tools: nuclear, sonic, and electrical. In addition, a Formation MicroScanner is available for high-resolution imaging the wall of the hole, a 12-channel logging tool provides accurate velocity and elastic property measurements as well as sonic waveforms for spectral analysis of energy propagation near the wall of the hole, and a vertical seismic profiler can record reflectors from below the total depth of the hole.

The management of the Ocean Drilling Program involves a partnership of scientists and governments. International oversight and coordination are provided by the ODP Council, a governmental consultative body of the partner countries, which is chaired by a representative from the United States National Science Foundation (NSF). The ODP Council periodically reviews the general progress of the program and discusses financial plans and other management issues. Overall scientific and management guidance is provided to the operators of the program by representatives from the group of institutions involved in the program, called the Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling (JOIDES).

The Executive Committee (EXCOM), made up of the administrative heads of the JOIDES institutions, provides general oversight for ODP. The Science Committee (SCICOM), with its advisory structure, is made up of working scientists and provides scientific advice and detailed planning for the Ocean Drilling Program. SCICOM has a network of panels and committees that screen drilling proposals, evaluate instrumentation and measurement techniques, and assess geophysical survey data and other safety and siting information. SCICOM uses the recommendations of the panels and committees to select drilling targets, to specify the location and major scientific objectives of each two-month drilling segment or leg, and to provide the science operator with nominations for co-chief scientists.

Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc. (JOI), a nonprofit consortium of U.S. oceanographic institutions, serves as the National Science Foundation's prime contractor for ODP. JOI is responsible for seeing that the scientific objectives, plans, and recommendations of the JOIDES committees are translated into scientific operations consistent with scientific advice and budgetary constraints. JOI subcontracts the operations of the program to two universities: Texas A&M University and Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University. JOI is also responsible for managing the U.S. contribution to ODP

under a separate cooperative agreement with NSF.

Texas A&M University (TAMU) serves as science operator for ODP. In this capacity, TAMU is responsible for planning the specific ship operations, actual drilling schedules, and final scientific rosters, which are developed in close cooperation with SCICOM and the relevant panels. The science operator also ensures that adequate scientific analyses are performed on the cores by maintaining the shipboard scientific laboratories and computers and by providing logistical and technical support for shipboard scientific teams. Onshore, TAMU manages scientific activities after each leg, is curator for the cores, distributes samples, and coordinates the editing and publication of scientific results.

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) of Columbia University is responsible for the program's logging operation, including processing the data and providing assistance to scientists for data analysis. The ODP Data Bank, a repository for geophysical data, is also managed by LDEO.

Core samples from ODP and the previous Deep Sea Drilling Project are stored for future investigation at four sites: ODP Pacific and Indian Ocean cores at TAMU, DSDP Pacific and Indian Ocean cores at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, ODP and DSDP Atlantic and Antarctic cores through Leg 150 at LDEO, and ODP Atlantic and Antarctic cores since Leg 151 at the University of Bremen, Federal Republic of Germany.

Scientific achievements of ODP include new information on early seafloor spreading and how continents separate and the margins evolve. The oldest Pacific crust has been drilled and sampled. We have new insights into glacial cycles and the fluctuations of ocean currents throughout geological time. ODP has also provided valuable data that shed light on fluid pathways through the lithosphere, global climate change both in the Arctic and near the equator, past sea-level change, seafloor mineralization, the complex tectonic evolution of oceanic crust, and the evolution of passive continental margins.

Many of the scientific goals can be met only with new technology; thus the program has focused on engineering as well as science. To date, ODP engineers have demonstrated the capability to drill on bare rock at mid-ocean-ridge sites and have developed techniques for drilling in high-temperature and corrosive regions typical of hydrothermal vent areas. A new diamond coring system promises better core recovery in difficult areas. In a close collaborative effort between ODP engineers and scientists, a system has been developed that seals selected boreholes ("CORKs") and monitors downhole temperature, pressure, and fluid composition for up to three years. When possible, ODP is also taking advantage of industry techniques such as logging while drilling, to obtain continuous downhole information in difficult-to-drill formations.

JOI is pleased to have been able to play a facilitating role in the Ocean Drilling Program and its cooperative activities, and we are looking forward to many new, exciting results in the future.

James D. Watkins  
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)  
President  
Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc.  
Washington, D.C.

# Preface

The *Scientific Results* volumes of the *Proceedings of the Ocean Drilling Program* contain specialty papers presenting the results of extensive research in various aspects of scientific ocean drilling. The authors of the papers published in this volume have enabled future investigators to gain ready access to the results of their research, and I acknowledge their contributions with thanks.

Each paper submitted to a *Scientific Results* volume undergoes rigorous peer review by at least two specialists in the author's research field. A paper typically goes through at least one revision cycle before being accepted for publication. We seek to maintain a peer-review system comparable to those of the most highly regarded journals in the geological sciences.

Each *Scientific Results* volume has an Editorial Review Board that is responsible for obtaining peer reviews of papers submitted to the volume. This board usually is made up of the two co-chief scientists for the cruise, the ODP staff scientist for the cruise, and one external specialist who is familiar with the geology of the area investigated. In addition, the volume has an ODP staff editor who assists with manuscripts that require English-language attention and who coordinates volume assembly.

*Scientific Results* volumes may also contain short reports of useful data that are not ready for final interpretation. Papers of this type are called Data Reports and include no interpretation of results. Data Report papers are read carefully by at least one specialist to make sure they are well organized, comprehensive, and discuss the techniques or procedures thoroughly.

To acknowledge the contributions made by this volume's Editorial Review Board, the Board members are designated Editors of the volume and are so listed on the title page. Reviewers of manuscripts for this volume, whose efforts are so essential to the success of the publication, are listed in the front of the book, without attribution to a particular manuscript.

On behalf of the Ocean Drilling Program, I extend sincere appreciation to members of the Editorial Review Boards and to the reviewers for giving their generous contribution of time and effort, which ensures that only papers of high scientific quality are published in the *Proceedings*.

Paul J. Fox  
Director  
Ocean Drilling Program  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, Texas

## REVIEWERS FOR THIS VOLUME

Ajoy K. Baksi  
John A. Barron  
Reidulv Boe  
Brian D. Bornhold  
Martine Buatier  
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Roy Wilkens  
Chris Wilson  
Woody Wise  
James Wittke  
Jeremy R. Young

# **OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM\***

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Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc.  
Washington, D.C.

Nicklas G. Piasias  
Interim Director, Ocean Drilling Programs

## **OPERATING INSTITUTION**

College of Geosciences  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, Texas

David B. Prior  
Dean

## **OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM**

Paul J. Fox  
Director

Jack G. Baldauf  
Deputy Director

Richard G. McPherson  
Administrator

Brian Jonasson, Manager  
Drilling Services

Ann Klaus, Manager  
Publication Services

Thomas A. Davies, Manager  
Science Services

## **LOGGING OPERATOR**

Borehole Research Group  
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory  
Columbia University  
Palisades, New York

David Goldberg, Head

\*At time of publication.



## **PARTICIPANTS ABOARD THE JOIDES RESOLUTION FOR LEG 157\***

Philip P.E. Weaver

Co-Chief Scientist

*Institute of Oceanographic Sciences  
Deacon Laboratory  
Brook Road  
Wormley  
Godalming  
Surrey GU8 5UB  
United Kingdom*

Hans-Ulrich Schmincke

Co-Chief Scientist

*Abt. Vulkanologie und Petrologie  
GEOMAR  
Research Center for Marine Geosciences  
Wischhofstrasse 1-3, Gebäude 4  
D-24148 Kiel 14  
Federal Republic of Germany*

John V. Firth

ODP Staff Scientist

*Ocean Drilling Program  
Texas A&M University Research Park  
1000 Discovery Drive  
College Station, Texas 77845-9547  
U.S.A.*

Jesus Baraza

Physical Properties Specialist

*Instituto de Ciencias Del Mar  
CSIC  
Paseo Joan De Borbón  
s/n 08039 Barcelona  
Spain*

James F. Bristow

LDEO Logging Scientist

*Borehole Research  
Department of Geology  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH  
United Kingdom*

Charlotte Brunner

Paleontologist (foraminifers)

*Center for Marine Sciences  
University of Southern Mississippi  
John C. Stennis Space Center  
Stennis Space Center, Mississippi 39529  
U.S.A.*

Steven Carey

Sedimentologist

*Graduate School of Oceanography  
University of Rhode Island  
South Ferry Road  
Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882  
U.S.A.*

Bernard Coakley

Physical Properties Specialist

*Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory  
Columbia University  
Palisades, New York 10964  
U.S.A.*

Michael Fuller

Paleomagnetist

*Department of Geological Sciences  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, California 93156  
U.S.A.*

Thomas Funck

Physical Properties Scientist

*Graduiertenkolleg  
GEOMAR  
Research Center for Marine Geosciences  
Wischhofstrasse 1-3, Gebäude 4  
D-24148 Kiel 14  
Federal Republic of Germany*

Martine Gérard

Inorganic Geochemist

*Laboratoire Pérologie Minéralogie  
ORSTOM  
72 route d'Aulnay  
93143 Bondy Cedex  
France*

Patrick Goldstrand

Sedimentologist

*Geological Sciences, MS 172  
University of Nevada-Reno  
Reno, Nevada 89557  
U.S.A.*

Bernhart Herr

Paleomagnetist

*Institut für Allgemeine und Angewandte Geophysik  
Universität München  
Theresienstrasse 41  
D-80333 München  
Federal Republic of Germany*

Julie Hood

Physical Properties Specialist

*Division of Marine Geology and Geophysics  
Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science  
University of Miami  
4600 Rickenbacker Causeway  
Miami, Florida 33149-1098  
U.S.A.*

Richard Howe

Paleontologist (nannofossils)

*Department of Geology and Geophysics  
University of Western Australia  
Nedlands, Western Australia 6009  
Australia*

\* Addresses at time of cruise.

Ian Jarvis  
Inorganic Geochemist  
*School of Geological Sciences  
Kingston University  
Penrhyn Road  
Kingston-upon-Thames  
Surrey KT1 2EE  
United Kingdom*

Susana Lebreiro  
Sedimentologist  
*University of Cambridge  
Earth Sciences Department  
Downing Street  
Cambridge CB2 3EQ  
United Kingdom*

Sten Lindblom  
Organic Geochemist  
*Department of Geology and Geochemistry  
Stockholm University  
S-10691 Stockholm  
Sweden*

Holger Lykke-Andersen  
Geophysicist/JOIDES Logging Scientist  
*Abt. Vulkanologie und Petrologie  
GEOMAR  
Research Center for Marine Geosciences  
Wischhofstrasse 1-3, Gebäude 4  
D-24148 Kiel 14  
Federal Republic of Germany*

Rosanna Maniscalco  
Paleontologist (foraminifers)  
*Istituto di Geologia e Geofisica  
Università di Catania  
Corso Italia, 55  
95129 Catania  
Italy*

Guy Rothwell  
Sedimentologist  
*Institute of Oceanographic Sciences  
Brook Road  
Wormley  
Godalming  
Surrey GU8 5UB  
United Kingdom*

JoAnne Sblendorio-Levy  
Paleontologist (nannofossils)  
*Stratigraphic Services  
6111 Yarwell  
Houston, Texas 77096  
U.S.A.*

Jean-Luc Schneider  
Sedimentologist  
*Département des Sciences de la Terre  
Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille  
URA-CNRS 719  
Sédimentologie et Géodynamique  
Laboratoire de Pérologie  
Bâtiment SN5  
59655 Villeneuve d'Ascq cedex  
France*

Mari Sumita  
Sedimentologist  
*Abt. Vulkanologie und Petrologie  
GEOMAR  
Research Center for Marine Geosciences  
Wischhofstrasse 1-3, Gebäude 4  
D-24148 Kiel 14  
Federal Republic of Germany*

Hidetsugu Taniguchi  
Sedimentologist  
*Department of Earth Sciences  
College of Humanities and Sciences  
Nihon University  
Sakuajosui Setagaya, 156  
Tokyo  
Japan*

Penny Tu  
LDEO Logging Scientist  
*Borehole Research Group  
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory  
Columbia University  
Palisades, New York 10964  
U.S.A.*

Paul Wallace  
Sedimentologist  
*Department of Geophysical Sciences  
University of Chicago  
5734 S. Ellis Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60637  
U.S.A.*

## **SEDCO OFFICIALS**

Captain Anthony Ribbens  
Master of the Drilling Vessel  
*Overseas Drilling Ltd.  
707 Texas Avenue South, Suite 213D  
College Station, Texas 77840-1917  
U.S.A.*

Robert C. Caldow  
Drilling Superintendent  
*Overseas Drilling Ltd.  
707 Texas Avenue South, Suite 213D  
College Station, Texas 77840-1917  
U.S.A.*



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